(c) No, Sir. The wheat stocks allocated were adequate to meet the PDS requirements in the State of Kerala.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat under the Targeted Public Distribution System and other Schemes in the State of Kerala

Figures in '000 Tonnes

TARGETED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Year	Allocation				Offtake				%
	APL	BPL	AAY	Total	APL	BPL	AAY	TOTAL	Offtake
2003-04	447.96	31.71	0.00	479.67	130.95	30.25	0.00	161.20	34
2004-05	447.96	121.76	0.00	569.72	172.51	122.47	0.00	294.98	52
2005-06	447.84	111.20	0.00	559.04	266.44	110.98	0.00	377.42	68

OTHER WELFARE SCHEME

Year	Allocation/ Offtake	SCHEMES									Total
		MDM	SGRY	N.P.	Hostels	Anna-purna	NFF-WP	WEP Other RELIEF	Open Market Sale	Exp-orts	
2003-04	Allocation	0.00	20.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.56
	Offtake	0.00	12.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.10	0.00	58.41
2004-05	Allocation	0.00	30.61	0.00	6.28	0.00	0.00	1.87	0.00	0.00	38.76
	Offtake	0.00	33.40	0.00	1.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.76	0.00	37.30
2005-06	Allocation	0.00	21.89	0.00	2.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.28
	Offtake	0.00	26.97	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.19	0.00	71.24

Restrictions on futures trade in essential commodities

1231. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any restrictions on futures trade in essential commodities;

(b) if so, whether there in any proposal to ease those restrictions;

(c) whether futures trading has any impact on the spot prices of essential commodities; and

(d) whether there is any connection between futures trading and the rise of prices of essential commodities witnessed recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Futures trading in essential commodities is subject to various regulatory measures such as limit on open position, margins, limit on daily price variations etc. Some of the essential commodities such as wheat, chana dal and urad dal are subject to additional margins of 10%, 5% and 10% respectively on the long positions.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Price levels of various commodities are determined on the basis of fundamental factors linked to demand and supply positions. Futures trading, *inter-alia*, helps in reducing volatility in the movement of prices of a traded commodity.

(d) The reasons for the recent rise in prices of essential commodities are mainly shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of international prices.

Proposals of Maharashtra for environmental clearance

1232. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of proposals submitted by Maharashtra Government related to environment issues to Central Government including necessary assistance and clearance to the environmental projects of Maharashtra since last two years; and

(b) the details of pending proposals submitted by Maharashtra Government with his Ministry by indicating the reasons behind the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The details of the projects received from the Government of Maharashtra during last two years along with the reasons for delay in the clearance in the case of pending proposals are given in the Statement.